

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) An electrode guide for an electrode in a spark-erosion machine, said guide comprising:

- a holding component and a pressure component[[,]];
- a grooved recess configured in the holding component ~~and in the pressure component, wherein~~ the pressure component being pre-tensioned against the holding component by ~~means of~~ a pre-tensioning device and the electrode being arranged and guided in a play-free manner between the pressure component and the holding component; and
- the electrode arranged in a rotating manner.

2. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a grooved recess [[is]]configured in the pressure component ~~and in the holding component.~~

3. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the grooved recess has a V-shaped cross-section.

4. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1 wherein the pre-tensioning device for pressing the pressure component against the holding component is ~~configured as~~ selected from the group consisting of a spring element ~~or as and a~~ weight.

5. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure force of the pressure component ~~can be adjusted~~ comprises an adjustable force.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode guide is arranged in a rotating manner.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode guide also has a pivoting device to pivot the electrode guide.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising an alignment device ~~[[is]]~~provided to displace the electrode guide parallel to an axis of rotation.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 9, wherein the alignment device is arranged in a rotating head.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the pressure component has a further recess in its central area facing the electrode.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode guide is arranged in ~~[[the]]~~a rotating head, ~~which is~~the rotating head held in a bridge.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 12, wherein the bridge is held by means of play-free spherical guides in a spindle of the spark-erosion machine so that it can be displaced in the direction of the axis.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An electrode guide according to Claim 12, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a stop ~~is~~ provided to limit the advance of the bridge.

15. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 14, wherein the stop is arranged in an adjustable manner.

16. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 10, wherein the rotating head is driven via a driver on ~~[[the]]~~a spindle.

17. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode guide is made of ~~an Al₂O₃~~a material selected from the group consisting of Al₂O₃ ceramic ~~[[or]]~~carbide ~~[[or]]~~and steel.

18. (Currently Amended) TheAn electrode guide according to Claim 1, wherein the electrode guide is arranged axially between the spindle and ~~[[the]]~~a workpiece to be machined.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for spark-eroding recesses, ~~in particular microbores~~, in workpieces, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- providing an electrode guide with a holding component and a pressure component, with a grooved recess being provided in the holding component and/or in the pressure component[[,]];

- arranging and guiding an electrode in a play-free manner between the holding component and the pressure component[[,]];

- arranging the electrode in a rotating manner[[,]];

- pressing the pressure component against the holding component by means of a pre-tensioning device[[,]]; and

- advancing only the electrode for spark-erosion purposes and maintaining the electrode guide at a defined distance from the workpiece in the direction of advance.

20. (Currently Amended) TheA method according to Claim 19, wherein the electrode guide ~~is~~ arranged in a rotating manner.

21. (Currently Amended) TheA method according to Claim 19, wherein the electrode guide is arranged axially between a spindle and the workpiece.

22. (Currently Amended) TheA method according to Claim 19, wherein the electrode guide is pivoted by ~~means of~~ a pivoting device [[so]]such that the electrode guide is positioned obliquely in respect of the axis of rotation.

23. (Currently Amended) TheA method according to Claim 19, wherein the electrode guide is operable to ~~can~~ be displaced parallel to the axis of rotation to produce conical bores, [[so]]such that the position of entry of the electrode into the workpiece is at the intersection of the axis of rotation and the workpiece or on the large diameter of the bore to be produced.

24. (New) An electrode guide for an electrode in a spark-erosion machine, said guide comprising:

- a holding component and a pressure component;
- a grooved recess configured in the pressure component, the pressure component being pre-tensioned against the holding component by a pre-tensioning device and the electrode being arranged and guided in a play-free manner between the pressure component and the holding component; and
- the electrode arranged in a rotating manner.

25. (New) An electrode guide for an electrode in a spark-erosion machine, said guide comprising:

- a holding component and a pressure component;
- a grooved recess configured in the holding component the pressure component being pre-tensioned against the holding component by a pre-tensioning device and the electrode being arranged and guided in a play-free manner between the pressure component and the holding component; and
- a recess configured in the pressure component.